



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.74
5 October 2022
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

FRANCE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(G)**

Mr Chairperson,

France condemns Russia's behaviour in the strongest possible terms.

By attacking Ukraine, Russia attacks the very foundations of our international order. And what is particularly grievous is to see one of the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council assault the founding principles of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

Further, the campaign of manipulation and disinformation that Russia has carried out in this forum completely undermines any trust or credibility that it may have had. Its repeated attacks on the OPCW Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat"), aimed at undermining its impartiality, are unacceptable.

In this context, France reiterates its full support and confidence in the Director-General and the Secretariat of the OPCW, whose independence and impartiality are known to all.

In 2022, a voluntary contribution of EUR 880,000, specifically earmarked for assistance and protection measures in Ukraine, was made in order to confront the threat of use of chemical weapons in the context of the Russian aggression.

We reaffirm our unequivocal support for the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and call on Russia to end this war and to withdraw the Russian army from Ukrainian territory.

My delegation would request that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and that it be posted on Catalyst and on the official website of the OPCW.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---

